

The State of Delaware Children In Nature Task Force (CIN TF) met in April 2010 to begin the process of responding to the challenge of reconnecting children to nature. With the publishing of Richard Louv's book *Last Child in the Woods* in 2006 momentum has steadily increased as more sponsors join the nationwide effort in committing to no child left inside.

As recently as June 25, 2010, the Department of the Interior held a public listening session in Annapolis where state and federal speakers addressed America's Great Outdoor Initiative. By the end of the session Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar called for coordination between his department (DOI), the Department of Education (DOE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to discuss this occasion to collaborate on President Obama's goal of "reconnecting Americans, especially children, to the outdoors."

It is clear that the pending legislation has created a climate for positive change and now is the time to make strides in environmental literacy, choices concerning healthy lifestyles and greater access to green spaces through formal and non-formal educational opportunities.

The Delaware Children in Nature Taskforce has taken the initiative to start his process in earnest. Through committee research, department collaboration and commitment, between the Departments of Education and Natural Resources and Environmental Control, to a vision that gives every child in Delaware the chance to get outdoors, the taskforce is ready to lead the way for the children and stakeholders of the First State on this initiative.